

CANDIDATES AT REMBERT.

MANY LADIES IN AUDIENCE WHICH HEARS OFFICE-SEEKERS TELL VOTERS WHY THEY DESIRE OFFICE.

Candidates Make Usual Speeches, Although Some Depart from Former Talks—Clifton and Epps Again Attack Each Other's Records—Supervisor Pitts Calls on Rival Candidate, W. S. Thompson, to Prove His Charges—Belser Gives Warning and Word of Hope to Cotton Farmers.

The county campaign meeting at Rembert on Tuesday was a very orderly and interesting one. There was an audience of more than two hundred persons, about half of whom were ladies and children, in the handsome school building when the candidates commenced to speak. This audience was increased to about four hundred at one time during the day, although many left after dinner and the audience for the speakers after dinner was not nearly so large as it was in the morning.

The audience was very enthusiastic and all of the candidates had many friends present, if applause indicated a number of friends of the speakers in the audience. W. J. Seale, a native of Providence section and candidate for coroner, received an ovation when he came in late, and the race between the candidates for magistrate seems to be eliciting more interest than any of the county races in that locality.

The candidates for the most part went over the same speeches which they have made at other points in the campaign. There was some heat shown by the candidates for superintendent of education, each of whom asked the voters to take stock of the two candidates and vote for the best man. Messrs. Epps and Clifton again took up their time in attacking each other's records and explaining their own, where it had been attacked. Mr. Epps bringing up Mr. Clifton's record on the anti-race track gambling bill. There was not as much interest shown by the audience in the speeches of these two candidates as there has been shown at other places. Mr. R. B. Belser warned the cotton raisers of the menace to them of the present war and advised them of the steps being taken by the government to aid them in this crisis. He recommended diversified farming and agricultural industries as the only remedy for the farmer in case the war continued indefinitely.

The meeting was called to order in the school house by Hon. J. E. DuPre of Plagah, who presided, introducing the candidates as their turns came.

Judge of Probate T. E. Richardson came in late on the train, making his usual announcement, as did Messrs. R. E. Wilder, auditor and B. C. Wallace, treasurer, unopposed candidates. P. M. Pitts, candidate for re-election as supervisor, stressed the importance to the county of the economical and successful handling of the county money by the board of commissioners, all going through his office. He told of what had been done while he was in the office, stating that the county still was run on a cash basis.

He referred to a statement made by Mr. W. S. Thompson at the Privateer meeting in which he alleged that Mr. Thompson had stated that the roads of Clarendon and Lee counties were better than the roads of Sumter county, although those counties did not have as much money to expend on the roads. Mr. Pitts denied that this statement was a fact, saying that it was a charge of his incompetency. He demanded that Mr. Thompson prove his statement and give him a chance to answer, or retract the statement.

Mr. L. E. White, candidate for supervisor, made his usual request for the suffrage of the voters, promising faithful and efficient service, if elected.

Mr. W. S. Thompson, a candidate for the same office, in reply to Mr. Pitts' statement, admitted that he had made the statement, but stated that he thought that Mr. Pitts should disprove the statement. He was willing for a delegation of three good men, preferably one a White man, one a Thompson man and one a Pitts man, to visit the Clarendon county roads and then, if they did not find them better, he would make suitable apologies for his statement. He had no pet roads or section and would give faithful service, if elected.

Superintendent of Education J. H. Haynsworth stressed the necessity of an education, stating that educational progress was necessarily slow. He told of his efforts to make the Sumter county schools better and asked that the people vote for the man whom they thought would make the best officer. A heavy rain was falling during most of the time he was speaking, making hearing difficult.

S. D. Cain, also a candidate for superintendent of education, stated that

his political career was known and he asked the voters as a business proposition to vote for the man best qualified for the office. He again referred to his belief in rotation in office, saying that he had never preached what he did not practice. He referred to his being raised on the farm and his teaching in the rural schools, saying that he thought that this gave him a clearer insight and a closer touch with the rural schools than his opponent had. He referred to his work in the office when the salary was not commensurate with the duties devolved upon the superintendent, saying that he had never been paid in dollars and cents for his work, "but thank God, I do not measure my work and life by dollars and cents alone."

The candidates for the office of coroner came next. D. W. Owens speaking first. S. W. Raffield referred to the presence of so many ladies, saying that the candidates were honored by their presence, "for it would not be long before the ladies will take a leading part in the politics of the State." W. J. Seale came in late, but was loudly applauded when he announced himself a candidate for the office. T. M. Jones was absent from the meeting.

The candidates for the office of magistrates in the seventh judicial district of the county spoke next. W. H. Freeman of Borden promised to faithfully discharge the duties of the office and to put into its execution the same business principles which he did in his private business. He did not think it was the duty of the magistrate to make the laws, or to say whether a law was good or bad, but to strictly and impartially enforce all laws. He stated that while his private life had been referred to, he would not refer to the private life of any candidate, as he was running for the office on his own merit.

Mr. Percy B. Myers of Hagood promised, if elected to the office, to deal justice without partiality. His statement that he had spent "many large evenings with the fair sex of Rembert," brought forth a burst of applause.

J. L. Gillis, the incumbent, asked re-election as an indication of duty well done, saying that his friends wanted him to serve again. He referred to his location at Rembert, saying that the office was now centrally located, when formerly it had been made that he did not live in the center of the district. He ridiculed the idea of moving the office from the central location to Borden or Hagood. He stated that some opposed him, saying that he was too busy a man to perform the duties of the office. He denied ever having failed to give his attention to the office when his personal attention was needed. If re-elected, he would stand by and continue to deal justly by all. All three candidates were vigorously applauded, the audience seemingly being about equally divided between the three candidates.

Dr. Geo. W. Dick, the first of the five candidates for the house of representatives, congratulated the town of Rembert on the big strides it had made in the past two years. His jokes met with great success and gave him the undivided attention of the audience. He stated that he had tried to do his duty by the people of his home county and although he was ignorant at first he had tried to emulate the example of the leaders of the house and to learn from them. He had gained one of the highest positions in the house, chairman of the ways and means committee, through which all of the expenditures of the State must pass. He referred to his work on this committee, telling of the reduction of the State debt and of reduced rate of insurance. He was not seeking any man's place, but was seeking to re-fill his own place and he wanted his friends to show that he had more friends than enemies, that they approved his work and that they wanted him to continue it. He paid an eloquent tribute to the late T. M. Bradley, a resident of a neighboring section, and to Geo. R. Rembert, who was raised in this section, one of the hardest workers and most dependable men on his committee.

R. B. Belser, candidate for the house, suffered at first from the confusion which was occasioned by a number of the ladies in the audience leaving to serve dinner and some of the men going to get dinner. He held the attention of the remaining farmers by his lucid explanation of the injury which would come to them because of the great European war and how they might hope to escape with little loss, if they cooperated with the bankers and business men in passing this crisis successfully. The federal government was sending money to the South to loan the farmers so that they could warehouse their cotton and thus hold it, while borrowing on it and paying their debts. He showed how much could be held off the market by these loans, how much the cotton mills of the United States needed for home consumption and how the farmers by taking advantage of these facts would not suffer. He warned the farmers against rushing their cot-

ton to market. He advised everybody who could do so to hold. The financial resources of the great New York bankers were coming to the aid of the cotton raisers, not entirely from an unselfish motive, for the bankers wanted to change the great cotton exchange of the world from Liverpool to New York. He told of the work of the Chamber of Commerce to help the farmer and his connection with that organization. The matter of distribution of cotton, he said, was a vital one, and could only be settled by the destruction by the other of the German or English navy, leaving the other to carry on the commerce of the world. He warned the farmers that, if the war hung on, as some seemed to think it would, that the only way in which they could save themselves was by diversifying their crops and reducing their acreage of cotton.

He referred to his work on the cotton warehouse bill, the commutation road tax bill, the cattle tick eradication bill, which gave the farmer one and a half cents per pound more for his beef than he could get formerly, an amendment to the one-mill tax levy, in which he had been assisted by Senator Clifton, in having one-half of the tax returned to the county where it was raised, his prevention of amendments to the marriage license law, allowing this money to go to the judge of probate in various counties, the water power tax bill and his efforts to have an equal assessment of taxes over the whole State, so that all might share equally the expense, as well as the benefits, of running the State government.

A. K. Sanders was in home territory. He thought that any three of the candidates would make a good delegation, but asked that he be placed on this delegation, where his past experience would make him a man of value. He would give up a better job to serve the county and State. He was very cordially received by his home people.

At this point a half hour recess was taken for dinner, which was served by the ladies of the Rembert church.

Upon reconvening Davis D. Moise was introduced. He had a small audience, as there had been no announcement that the speaking would recommence and many outside did not know it was going on. He referred to the fact that he had been asked to make the commencement address at the Rembert school in May, complimenting the people on their schools and their exercises at that time. He had no record and was seeking only one place and was not trying to take any man's place from him. He again told of his work as president of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, in building a tobacco warehouse and endeavoring to make Sumter a tobacco market, along with other work for the benefit of the farmers. Crop diversification in order to prepare for the boll weevil was emphasized. He mentioned the efforts to build the Shiloh railroad and the fact that the cattle tick eradication work was first started in the Chamber of Commerce. He favored the State warehouse system and a simplified form of land registration. He favored all schools and places of learning, but would see that the common schools first received their full share of funds. He believed that he could be of some service and wanted to be of service.

J. C. Dunbar of Dalzell was the next speaker. He was not born in Sumter county, but was born in South Carolina. He believed in a rural credit system of the federal government and of the State government. This was coming sure, for the people demanded it. It was true that the State constitution did not allow the State to lend out money, but the constitution could be easily amended. He stated that the reason that the State warehouse bill did not pass was because John L. McLaurin was the author of the bill and his political opponents would rather see the bill defeated than McLaurin get the credit for the bill. He deplored the presence of political factions, as politics tended to defeat constructive measures. The present fish laws were a farce, he said, and adequate laws should be made and enforced. He went over his advocacy of a land title registration system and rural credit system for long time loans. He again went into details as to illiteracy of the whites and negroes of the State and dwelt on the necessity of educating the white children.

Senator John H. Clifton was the first of the candidates for senator to speak. He thanked the people of Harting Creek for the one lone vote which he had received at that box four years ago, speaking in very complimentary terms of character of his opponent in the race at that time, Mr. A. K. Sanders. He hoped, however, now that Mr. Sanders was not in the race that he would receive some of the votes here. He again stated, as he has at previous meetings, that he deplored the fact that the race this year was not to be made on the same high plane as it had been made in the past, but that it should deal with records, his own and that of his oppo-

nent. He would not discuss good roads, everybody wanted them. He would not discuss the public schools or the Confederate soldiers, as the State had a fixed policy of caring for them. He spoke of his work to pass the amendment to the one-mill tax levy, already mentioned by Mr. Belser, and its good to Sumter county. He had not paid any attention to the marriage license fee bills, as this was not a matter of any moment and there was little difference whether the salary of the judge of probate was increased directly or was increased by allowing him to receive this little fee for issuing marriage licenses. The water power tax bill had not passed the senate for three reasons, because it was unconstitutional; because there was no fixed rate of taxation, and, primarily, because it was to the best interests of the State to have this water power developed for the upbuilding of the State. He voted against the two cent rate bill because it was the confiscating of property without due process of law and without seeing that the railroad would have a reasonable return on the investment. He again stated that the union station bill had been killed because of the opposition of the Sumter delegation in the house. He stated that he had always had the courage to vote when he was in the house, again referring to Epps' request of the house to excuse him from voting on the dispensary bill and his not voting on the Fortner bill, showing Epps' action on the 1914 dispensary bill. He had always been opposed to white people teaching in negro schools and had voted that way. He belittled bills which his opponent had passed, a bill for election of trustees in Mayesville district, for re-annexation of a portion of Lee county and as to the collection of taxes. He stated that he was always ready to serve and would be glad to continue to serve the people in the future, as he had in the past.

Mr. Epps took up most of his time in explaining the matters mentioned by Mr. Clifton, starting off by saying that he had served the people of Sumter county to the best of his ability, nor had he dodged a single issue of moment to the State or county. He stated in reference to Mr. Clifton's having expressed regret that their records had been brought into the contest, that he had been told prior to the first meeting that Mr. Clifton had stated to friends that he would attack his (Epps') record and indicating that he meant to do so, he (Clifton) had during his speech referred to a typewritten statement taken from his grip at Privateer. He again stated his position on the liquor question, being personally opposed to liquor, nor had he ever taken a drink of whiskey or beer, or ever chewed or smoked tobacco, but, as a representative of the people he was in favor of their voting on the dispensary question every four years, as called for now by the present law. In reference to the defeat of the union station bill, he again read the replies he had received from the mayor and councilmen of Sumter and the Chamber of Commerce, the latter asking that the bill be not passed. He thought the railroads could stand for the two cent rate bill and still make a profit. He again gave as his reason for not voting on the Fortner bill the fact that he thought it unnecessary and not a matter on which to legislate, as it would create a wrong impression in the minds of our posterity.

He was opposed to race track gambling and would have aided any bill driving this out of the State. Mr. Clifton, he said, had worked against a bill to stop race track gambling and then after the bill had been passed, despite his efforts to kill it, he had tacked on an amendment extending the time for the bill to go into effect. His statement that he had returned a ticket sent him by the Charleston Racing Association, which he had been assured was worth \$150 and which he might easily dispose of for \$100, if he chose, telling the association officers who had sent it that he was a member of the legislature and might work against them was received with applause. He stated that every member of the general assembly had received one of these tickets good for the season from the race track association.

Mr. Epps then went on to tell what he had done and tried to do. He had worked for the water power tax bill, he had passed a bill regulating the collection of poll taxes through the sheriff's office, by which he had been assured by the sheriff that the collections had been larger than ever before, and which he therefore considered constructive legislation.

He emphasized the fact that he had no apologies to make for bringing into the campaign meetings the discussion of Mr. Clifton's record, as it was a matter of public record. He did not think that on this record Mr. Clifton should be elected, and asked that he be chosen in Mr. Clifton's place. He stated that he had another matter which he had expected to bring up, but that he would not do so as Mr. Clifton was not present, Mr.

Clifton having left immediately after his own speech to catch the train to Sumter.

Both Mr. Clifton and Mr. Epps were very loudly cheered, Mr. Clifton more when he rose to speak and Mr. Epps more when he completed his speech.

DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.

Those Who Will Go From Here to Attend Cotton Congress.

The following gentlemen representing the banking institutions of Sumter and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce will go to Washington to attend the Southern Cotton Congress August 13th-14th in that city, and to interview the secretary of the treasury and the comptroller of currency regarding plans for the United States government furnishing money to help farmers of Sumter county to market their cotton at such times as will be conducive to the financial interests of the cotton producers, and the tobacco growers:

D. D. Moise, President Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

R. B. Belser, Vice-president Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

Neill O'Donnell, President First National Bank.

Geo. L. Ricker, Cashier City National Bank.

Bernard Manning, Cashier the Bank of Sumter.

Charles G. Rowland, President of the Bank of South Carolina.

S. O. Quinn, of the Booth-Boyle Live Stock Company.

The first mentioned three gentlemen are directors of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Moise is a director of the Bank of Sumter. A joint meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and the delegation of local bankers was called for yesterday evening to formulate plans for getting the money in the Sumter banks.

The Sumter County Farmers' Union delegation to go to Washington to attend the Cotton Congress is as follows:

J. Frank Williams, President.

R. B. Belser, J. M. Brogdon, J. M. Kolb.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs of Goodwill, Sumter County, President of the State Farmers' Union, is already in Washington.

The representatives of the Sumter banks are primarily interested in seeing, if possible, that there is sufficient money, under the new national currency act, deposited with Sumter banks to enable farmers of Sumter's trade territory to hold cotton by some plan of credit extension yet to be agreed upon.

The delegation of bankers, with President Moise of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce leave for Washington this evening.

It is expected that Congressman A. F. Lever, chairman of the committee on agriculture of the house of representatives will meet with the Sumter delegation for a conference early Wednesday morning before the delegation calls upon Secretary McAdoo of the treasury department and Comptroller of the Currency Williams.

The business men of Sumter and the officers and directors of all of the Sumter banks, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Retail Dealers' Association have been engaged for the past week in discussing and endeavoring to work out plans for rendering to the cotton, tobacco, and other agricultural product producers every possible means of relief whereby cotton and tobacco particularly can be so marked under normal conditions prices or held until the present financial crisis has passed.

As soon as the Southern Cotton Congress adjourns and if any positive relief is guaranteed whereby farmers can hold cotton and borrow upon same the Sumter County Farmers' Union, and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce will get busy organizing the farmers and sending out circulars giving them advice as to what to do in order to borrow money on cotton.

The Sumter County Farmers' Union and the organized business interests of Sumter city are working well together in this crisis. President J. Frank Williams, of the Sumter County Farmers' Union attended the meeting of the commercial organization yesterday afternoon and gave his views, also promising active and hearty cooperation of the farmers of Sumter county.

CROP MOVING DAY.

Long String of Appeals for Increase in Amount of Funds Allotted.

Washington, Aug. 11.—This was crop moving day at the treasury department and there was a long string of appeals to increase the allotment of government crop moving funds. Senator Poindester, of Washington, wanted the original allotment of \$500,000 for the Spokane section restored. Representative Clarke of Florida asked for an increase in the allotment to the Florida banks.

Every criminal pardoned means at least one more vote against law and order.

Executive Committee Meeting.

An adjourned meeting of the County Democratic Executive committee was held in the court house at 10.30 o'clock Wednesday morning for the purpose of hearing voters the regularity of whose enrollment had been questioned at the time the rolls were inspected by the committee at the meeting held on the 8th instant. There was only one case of this kind, Olin Leslie Stubbs, enrolled in Ward 4 Club. The question was raised as to his residence in the State. Mr. Stubbs presented the following affidavit:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Sumter County.

Personally appeared before me Olin Leslie Stubbs, who being duly sworn says, that he is a resident of the State of South Carolina, that he was born and raised in the city of Cheraw, Chesterfield county, South Carolina and has lived there nearly all of his life; that he is a telegraph operator in the employ of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., and that he has been sent by the said Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company to different places out of the State to work on several occasions, but for only a short time. The deponent further swears that at the time of his marriage in November, 1913, he was stationed at Arcade, Florida, and stayed there five months and was then transferred to Sumter, S. C., where he has since resided, that he has always claimed to be a resident of South Carolina and that he has been a resident of the City of Sumter, S. C., for a period of six months and over.

OLIN LESLIE STUBBS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 11th day of August, 1914.

F. B. Creech, (L. S.)

Notary Public for S. C.

After hearing further statements in his behalf to the effect that he had never established a residence in any other State and had never voted in any other State, a motion was made and adopted that the showing made by Mr. Stubbs be accepted as sufficient to establish his citizenship and that his name be not stricken from the club roll.

There being no further business the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the chairman.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The European wars and the consequent cutting down of imports will not diminish to any appreciable extent the supply of food in the United States and any raising of prices will be unjustified, it was announced today. Increases of food prices may be made, but it will be because dealers take advantage of the war situation to make larger profits.

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